

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

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April 11, 1960

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE NSC PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference for A Research Clearing House within the NSC Staff

REFERENCES: A. Memo for Planning Board, "Research and National Security," March 29, 1960
B. Record of Planning Board Meeting, April 5, 1960, item 2.

The enclosed draft terms of reference for a clearing house for research relating to national security policy, prepared by the NSC Staff pursuant to Reference B, are transmitted herewith for consideration by the Planning Board on Tuesday, April 12, 1960.

ROBERT H. JOHNSON
Director
Planning Board Secretariat

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Seems like a sensible, modest step that could be further developed if experience indicated need for more ambitious effort.

MLJ cg

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NSC STAFF DRAFTTERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A
RESEARCH CLEARING HOUSE WITHIN THE NSC STAFF

1. There shall be established within the NSC Staff structure a small unit which shall have the following functions:

a. Keeping the NSC Planning Board, the Operations Coordinating Board, the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Security Operations Coordination, ^{Office of Sec. Advisor,} and other components of the NSC Staff informed of research being done within and outside the government which has significant bearing upon national security policy-making or operations coordination. Emphasis should be upon a high degree of selectivity.

b. Arranging for appropriate access within the government to ^{such} research studies in the national security field prepared under the direction of a particular department, agency, or private group.

2. In carrying out the above functions, initial emphasis in the work of this unit will be upon:

A. Staff shd have some initiative
plus a little money
B. Shd be able to encourage Dept to
do something

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a. Surveying relevant research work being done in order (1) to determine what research is most relevant and useful to the work of the Planning Board, the OCB, the Special Assistants to the President and the NSC Staff; and (2) to become generally familiar with the contribution that available research can make to national security policy-making or operations coordination, as well as with the limitations of such research.

b. Establishing appropriate liaison arrangements with departments and agencies involved in research relevant to national security policy-making or operations coordination.

c. Developing effective procedures for making relevant research readily available and most useful to those officials engaged in national security policy-making or operations coordination.

3. In order to permit the NSC Staff unit to carry out the function referred to in par. 1-a above, departments and agencies will make available to the NSC Staff unit upon request appropriate information regarding relevant research studies. When necessary, arrangements for making departmental research studies available to other departments and agencies will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis between the NSC Staff unit and the originating department or agency.

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4. As a means of assisting in the accomplishment of 2-b above, each such department or agency will designate an individual to serve as the point of contact between the department or agency and the NSC Staff unit. This individual, while thoroughly familiar with the research of his department or agency, should be attached to, or work closely with, the Planning Board representative for his agency.

5. The NSC Staff unit will not engage in activities which duplicate or conflict with existing arrangements of departmental and agency organizations (such as the External Research Division in State) for maintaining liaison with university and other private research organizations.

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